

REMARKS

The Examiner's action and the references relied upon have been carefully considered and the application has been amended accordingly. Claims 22-29 have been canceled and new claims 30-42 have been added directed to a television receiving system (claims 30-36) and a method to control access of a plurality of separate television program signals (claims 37-42). Support for the multiplexer mechanism and demultiplexer mechanism in new claim 30 can be found in the specification at page 6, lines 17-22 and page 9, lines 8-17, respectively. In view of the cancellation of claims 22-29, the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph directed to claims 23, 24 and 27 has become moot since these claims are no longer in the application.

The problem addressed by the present invention, as embodied in independent claims 30 and 37, is the avoidance of multiple control access modules (CAM) when more than one signal stream is processed. In prior known solutions, a CAM is able to receive and process one signal stream and when a television system supports two signal streams (PIP or storage capabilities), it is necessary to use two CAM. The present invention overcomes the need to use multiple CAM by creating an artificial signal stream in which more than one original signal stream are embedded. This is accomplished by the multiplexing process which removes the common marking (synchronization byte) and adds a specific marking for each input signal stream. The specific markings allow the initial signal streams to be retrieved and to generate, at the demultiplexing stage, the two or more input signals.

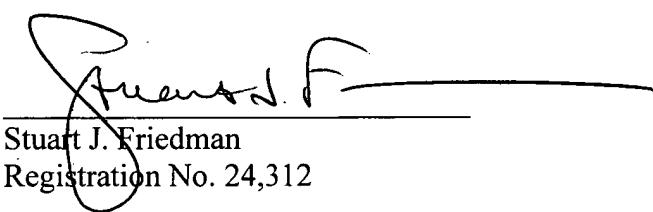
Previously presented claims 22-25 and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Chao et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,893,306). As applied to new claims 30-42, this ground of rejection is respectfully traversed. Chao et al discloses a multiplexing and demultiplexing system which is commonly accepted to be well known. No reference is made in Chao et al to the access control of such a multiplex stream. With respect to Chao et al's multiplexing step, the input packets are filled into a DTDM packet which can be considered as a vehicle packet (column 4, lines 54-64). As a result, the size of the solution proposed by Chao is not merely the sum of the size of the input streams, but includes some overhead due to the presence of the overhead of the DTDM packets. In addition, the steps recited in claim 30 related

to the access control of the multiplexed stream are not disclosed in Chao et al. Further, the input packets in Chao et al are not modified to embed synchronization information which is removed at the demultiplexing step. In view of the newly submitted claims and the aforementioned deficiencies in the Chao et al disclosure, it is clear that Chao et al cannot anticipate independent claims 30 or 37 because it does not disclose each and every element of these claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) over Chao et al is respectfully requested.

Previously presented claim 26 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chao et al in view of Nishimura et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,472,686). Inasmuch as claim 26 no longer is in the application and there is no pending corresponding claim, this ground of rejection is moot. In any event, there is nothing in Nishimura et al which addresses the deficiencies already discussed in Chao et al and, therefore, this ground of rejection is not sustainable as against any of the presently pending claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that all of presently pending claims 30-42 are allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance directed to these claims is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Stuart J. Friedman
Registration No. 24,312

Law Offices of Stuart J. Friedman, PC
28930 Ridge Road
Mt. Airy, MD 21771
Phone: (301) 829-1003
Fax: (301)-829-4107